



Welcome Information

I would like to welcome all of you to 6th grade English!!! I have put together this informational packet to assist you throughout the year. In this packet I have included information about various policies. I hope you find it helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

REACHING THE TEACHER

I am always available to parents and students. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me. The best time for parents to reach me at school is a half hour before or after school. If you are unable to reach me at school, you can always text or leave a voicemail on my classroom Google voice number. E-mail is another great way to communicate with me. You can find a quick link to my email from my St. Johns Middle School Webpage. I check my email daily. You can always send notes as well.

School: 989-227-4303

Student and Parent Google number for texts and voicemail: 989-249-3366

Classroom: 989-227-4360

E-mail: vannormant@sjredwings.org

STUDENT PLANNERS

Student planners are used not only to keep your student organized academically, but also as a key means of communication between school and home. I check your student's planner on a regular basis to ensure they have been filling out their planner properly and are sharing this information with you. In their student planners, I can provide you with immediate feedback as to whether or not they are completing their homework, as well as answer your questions about assignments or the day-to-day workings of the class. *In order for this to be successful, we must work together.* **The use of student planners is mandatory for all 6th grade students and one will be provided to your child.**

HOMEWORK FOLDERS

Homework folders are not mandatory but one will be provided to your child. This is a great way for your student to stay organized. Their homework folder works best if it is always with their student planner and is carried to all classes. It should be brought home every night with their student planner.

HOMEWORK

- The majority of their homework for the year will be from book clubs and our independent reading program. Please see below for detailed information on our independent reading program.
- The rest of their homework will come from class work that isn't completed during class. I allow ample time in class so if this becomes a chronic issue at home, we may need to look at what choices the student is making during class time.
- Students will copy down their homework assignments in their student planners. Homework will typically be due the next day unless otherwise noted in their planner.
- Setting up a homework schedule at home and a quiet place to work helps students to develop routines and complete assignments.

INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAM

Each student will be taking the Scholastic Reading Inventory assessment. (I will share these results with you at fall conferences.) This assessment will determine a Lexile score for each student. A targeted Lexile range will be determined on an individual basis. The target reading range is for each child is 100 points below and 50 points above their Lexile score.

Sixth graders are expected to read 1 book independently first trimester, and 2 books independently for the remaining two trimesters. Each book must also have a Scholastic Reading Counts quiz. After completion of a book they must pass the Scholastic Reading Counts quiz with a score of 70% or higher. They have 3 attempts to pass a quiz and must wait 24 hours before retaking.

Please visit my website to find more information on accessing our library services and checking the Lexile of books from home. You can find this information under parent information.

ABSENCES AND ASSIGNED WORK

When a student is absent, it is their responsibility to get any missing assignments. Students are welcome to ask questions and/or get clarification from the teacher or a peer. Students will be granted one additional day for each day absent to complete assignments.

LATE WORK

Late work will be graded according to the following policy. Assignments 1-day late will be lowered 10%. For assignments 2-5 days late the highest they can receive is a score of 60%. Completing the assignment regardless of the score will allow them to use extra credit points they may have earned.

GRADING SCALE

A	100 - 93	C	76 - 73
A-	92 - 90	C-	72 - 70
B+	89 - 87	D+	69 - 67
B	86 - 83	D	66 - 63
B-	82 - 80	D-	62 - 60
C+	79 - 77	E	59 - 0

Extra Credit will be given but ALL work must be in to be eligible.

EXTRA CREDIT

The only opportunity in 6th grade for extra credit is Writing Bingo. If your child chooses to participate in this opportunity they will be asked to write a variety of writing genres over the 12-week trimester. They should attempt to get a BINGO: vertically, horizontally or diagonally on the sheet. Every BINGO earns two points of extra credit with a maximum of 4 points. Each writing sample should be stapled to the bingo sheet for review by the teacher. This is provided to each student at the start of each trimester.

CLASSROOM RESPONSIBILITY and DISCIPLINE

I hold high standards when it comes to behavior in the classroom. I expect that students treat others with respect, listen to others, follow directions, and take responsibility for their actions including their school work. I spend a great deal of time at the beginning of the year teaching and practicing with the children the types of behaviors I expect during the day. I believe that discipline should not be loud and boisterous, but rather be as slight an interruption as possible. Therefore the steps that will be employed are as follows:

- **Official Warning** - this is as simple as telling the child they have an official warning. Most inappropriate behaviors stop at this point.
- **Signing the Responsibility Book** - this book is located in the classroom and students are expected to fill out their name, date, and mark why they are signing (responsibility or discipline), their motivation and what they will do different next time. This serves many purposes. Children will start to take more responsibility for their behavior and I have documentation of each child's responsibility and discipline in the classroom. Each child is given a clean slate at the end of the marking period.
- **Take a Respect Sheet home** - if inappropriate behavior continues your child will be required to take a Respect Sheet home. This sheet requires the child to write what they did wrong, what they should have been doing, why they should have made a better choice, and finally a plan for changing their behavior. **This sheet requires a parent's signature and must be returned to school the following day.** If it does not come back, I will make contact with you to ensure that you have received the letter and are aware of the situation.
- **Behavior Referral to Mr. Kemsley** - if we still can not get things under control the child will be asked to leave the classroom and will be asked to discuss their behavior with Mr. Kemsley.

* For extreme behaviors or violations, students may be sent directly to Mr. Kemsley.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. Please let me know of any questions, comments, or concerns. I am looking forward to a great year!!
Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tammy Van Norman